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COMMENCEMENT

College Closes 116th Year with Notable Gathering.—Enthusiasm Over New Buildings.

The opening of two large and beautiful new buildings and the centennial of the birth of John G. Saxe made the recent commencement one of the most notable in the history of Middlebury College. The town was filled with guests, including the largest number of Alumni since 1900. The delight of the visitors over the magnificent additions to the college equipment stirred a spirit of enthusiasm which everyone could feel. The high merit of the various addresses, the impressive dignity of the chapel dedication, and the presence of many distinguished guests combined to raise the occasion to a level not often attained in academic gatherings. "The best commencement I ever attended" was the word of many an alumnus.

It is impossible to say which of the many features was the most important or excited the greatest interest. Any one of half a dozen features would have been sufficient to make the commencement notable. The address of Mr. Howard Elliott, President of the New Haven railroad, was a remarkable utterance, which would have distinguished any gathering. The Saxe centennial was worthily observed and the remarks of his namesake were very greatly enjoyed by an audience which filled the McCullough gymnasium. It is safe to say that the chapel dedication was one of the most impressive

beautiful Green Mountain State.

"Founded in 1800, Middlebury is not so old, nor so large, as that college which, until today, was the only one to claim my loyal allegiance,—Harvard. I am a great believer in the usefulness of the smaller colleges located at a distance from congested centers of population, and near to Mother Earth. We all remember the story of Anteus, who was so strong that he conquered all who came against him,—how his strength came from Mother Earth, and how Hercules finally overcame him when he lifted him from off the earth and thus prevented him from renewing his strength; and so it is important to get back to Nature if we are to keep up the virility of the American people.

"Middlebury's catalogue for the year just ending shows 32 names in the teaching and administrative staffs, 343 undergraduates from 12 States, and foreign countries, and 149 attending the summer school,—a total of 492. Middlebury is showing a rational growth.

"The high character of Middlebury graduates is shown by the fact that in its first 100 years among its graduates were 32 college Presidents, and 9 Governors of States.

"To accomplish the results of the last fifty years tireless energy and prodigious work were necessary,—work to plan, work to execute. Because of the



JOHN G. SAXE

functions ever held in the State of Vermont. No one who saw the little grandson of Governor Mead take the keys of the chapel across the chancel to Governor Mead, or who heard the student choir sing "Lift up your Heads, O ye Gates," will ever forget it. Heburn Hall, opened on Tuesday, was the admiration of every visitor, as it was realized how complete the new dormitory is in all its features and how it would surely increase the popularity of the college.

The Register has not space for a complete story of this great commencement. No attempt is made to narrate the events in the order of their importance or their happening, and even a complete report could not convey the spirit of rejoicing and enthusiasm which characterized the various gatherings.

THE COMMENCEMENT DINNER.

Every place was taken at the dinner following the graduation exercises and many could not secure admission. President Thomas presided and spoke of his joy in the prosperity of the college and his strong hope for the future. Aside from the address of Hon. John G. Saxe, reported in another column, Rev. Arthur H. Bradford of Rutland, who had received the degree of Doctor of Divinity, spoke of the strong position of Middlebury in Vermont and paid a tribute to Governor Mead. He was followed by Mr. Howard Elliott, who said in part:

"I wish to express my profound thanks to the Trustees of Middlebury College for the honor conferred on me today by this, the oldest college in the

apparently unlimited natural resources of our country and the great immigration, we have not thought sufficiently of conditions that will confront us when we are compelled to husband our resources in order to compete with other nations. These conditions now face us. We surely can help ourselves if we try to practice the old-fashioned characteristics that many are pleased to call New England habits. These characteristics and habits are not as prevalent as in the old days,—traits that built up the country from the Revolution to the Civil War, and which I am glad to know Middlebury College encourages.

"As your catalogue points out, the location of the college favors economy,—a sterling habit that seems to be lost sight of in this period of extravagance, due, doubtless, to the great increase in wealth. We are extravagant as individuals, and our Government,—Federal, State, municipal, and county,—reflects that spirit. As a result, we are piling up debts that will be a burden upon many a county and town, and the State and nation for years to come.

"The college in the country has a direct influence for sane and economical living which is an offset to the extravagance of the great cities.

"There is another habit that is not so prevalent as formerly—the habit of work. Those who made the American nation what it is today worked long and hard. The spirit of hard work now seems to be lacking and we hear constantly that eight hours or less work a day is all that a strong, healthy man

(Continued on Page 5.)



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